

Athlete in UAE claims he was framed in drug case

Iraqi athlete denies consuming hashish, insists he was framed up

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
- Published: 00:00 November 25, 2010



Dubai: A 32-year-old athlete on Wednesday pleaded innocent to charges he consumed hashish and claimed he was framed up.

"I am a weightlifting champion and bodybuilding trainer. I have been serving the UAE for the past 11 years, during which I never broke the law or committed any wrongdoing. Sir, I am innocent and did not take any drugs... I have been malevolently dragged into this case," said the 32-year-old Iraqi identified only as H.W. as he defended himself before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

Appearing before Judge Fahmi Mounir Fahmi, the accused said: "I received a phone call while I was in Jebel Ali. The caller asked to train with me in my gym. He came to the gym and asked to meet him... outside the gym premises. When I went out... he showed me the prosecution's search and arrest warrant. They warrant had all the details wrong except for my name and contact number.

"The warrant said that I had a car, but my vehicle had been impounded for nearly one year and a half. All the mentioned details were untrue and fabricated."

Tip off

An Emirati anti-narcotics police first lieutenant testified that an informant tipped them off that the defendant possessed and consumed drugs in a gym.

"After we detained him, we couldn't find any drug in his possession upon searching him and his house," the officer claimed.

The defendant tested positive for hashish.

The court is expected to hand down its verdict on December 8.